

Appln. No. 10/532,894

Attorney Docket No. 10808-235

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this Amendment, claims 2 and 6-11 remain pending. Claims 1, 3-5, and 12-15 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the examiner's indication that claims 2 and 8-11 have been allowed. Further, the examiner noted that claims 6 and 7 included allowable subject matter and would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form and Applicants respectfully request early allowance thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 97/17726 to Hebert et al. (Hebert).

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

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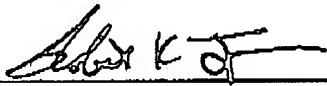
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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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-7-